

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01

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R 151025Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8724

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11496

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MR, CH

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN - PRC NEGOTIATIONS: OVERSEAS CHINESE

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4949

SUMMARY: PEKING CURRENTLY APPEARS TO BE SEARCHING FOR SOME

SUITABLE LANGUAGE TO BE USED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH

MALAYSIA WHICH WILL PAPER OVER THE CONFLICT OF PRINCIPLES

ON THE STATELESS CHINESE ISSUE. MEANWHILE, CHOU EN-LAI

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REITERATED TENG HSIAO-PING'S SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE

CHOOSING THE NATIONALITY OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY RESIDE.
END SUMMARY

1. OUR GUESS IS THAT THE PRC WOULD CONSIDER IT A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE TO MAINTAIN SOME PROTECTING ROLE OVER THE STATELESS CHINESE IN MALAYSIA SO LONG AS THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ALLOW THEM TO BECOME MALAYSIAN CITIZENS. BUT THIS PROTECTING ROLE, AS IT PRESENTLY SEEMS TO BE ENVISIONED BY THE PRC, WOULD BE CALLED INTO EFFECT ONLY IN CASES OF SERIOUS PERSECUTION OF THE STATELESS CHINESE COMMUNITY AND WOULD BE LIMITED TO PROTESTS AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRC DOES NOT WANT TO CREATE A SITUATION WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE VOLUNTARY OF FORCED REPATRIATION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PRC IS PROBABLY SEEKING SOME MUTUALLY SUITABLE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD PAPER OVER THIS CONFLICT OF PRINCIPLES AND NOT CALL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM. WE HAVE HEARD FROM A SENSITIVE DEPLOMATIC SOURCE THAT THE PRC PUT FORWARD A NEW OFFER ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS RECENTLY RESUMED IN NEW YORK.

2. WE HAVE NOTHING MORE ON THE SEPTEMBER 29 REMARKS BY TENG HSIAO-PING THAN THE EXCERPTS IN NCNA RELEASE REPRINTED IN THE SCMP, WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY PASSED TO THE MALAYSIANS. DESPITE TENG'S CLAIM FOR PRC PROTECTION OF THE "PROPER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS" OF THE OVERSEAS CHINESE HIS REMARKS SIGNALLED A SIGNIFICANT SOFTENING OF THE PRC POSITION.

3. ON NOVEMBER 3, CHOU EN-LAI AGAIN PUT HIS WEIGHT BEHIND SUPPORT FOR NATURALIZATION IN PUBLIC REMARKS DURING A BANQUET HOSTED BY AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM. CHOU SAID, " PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM HAS SHOWN CONCERN FOR THE REUNION OF AUSTRALIANS OF CHINESE DESCENT WITH THEIR RELATIVES IN CHINA. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHARES THIS CONCERN. WE ARE VERY PREASED THAT MANY CHINESE, AFTER ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA, HAVE CHOSEN AUSTRALIAN NATIONALITY OF THEIR OWN WILL, LIVED IN FRIENDSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE THERE AND DONE THEIR BIT IN BUILDING AUSTRALIA." THE REMARK WAS MEANT, OF COURSE, FOR THE EARS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS SINCE THE MINUSCULE AUSTRALIAN-CHINESE COMMUNITY IS NOT AN ISSUE.
DEAN

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